



Joint Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

December 29, 2005

Stream Assessment Methodologies

In an effort to develop a unified and consistent method of stream assessment and mitigation to apply to all areas of the Commonwealth, the Corps and DEQ are retracting the mandated use of certain stream methodologies to allow us time for further comparison, testing, and refinement of a comprehensive stream methodology for the Commonwealth. In the interim, use of the Corps' Stream Attribute Assessment Methodology (SAAM) and DEQ's Stream Impact Compensation Assessment Methodology (SICAM) throughout the Commonwealth is encouraged, but not mandatory. The use of the SAAM and the SICAM will assist the Corps and DEQ staff in evaluating mitigation proposals and will contribute to our database on stream conditions. The SICAM will be available on DEQ's website after January 6, 2006:
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wetlands/>

The Corps and DEQ will continue to evaluate the utility of the methods and coordinate the data collected. Our goal is to develop a stream methodology both agencies can support within six months of the date of this public notice. The public will be invited at a later date to participate in the data gathering and on DEQ's previously established workgroup.

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